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November 18, 2002

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP P.O Box 747 Falls Church, VA 22040-0747

Dear Sir/Madam,

This is to Deny your refund request in the amount of \$430.00, for patent/serial number 09806701.

Small entity status fee not refundable. The time has expired for the refund of this fee. A refund based on establishment of small entity status may only be obtained if a verified statement under 37 CFR 1.27 and a request for the refund of excess amount are filed within three months of timely payment of the full fee (37 CFR 1.28).

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